




Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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255 Westminster Street
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Enclosure 6b1
May 15, 2018

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Approval of Necessity of School Construction: The Compass School

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program and the SBA Capital Fund. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. Article 9 of the FY16 State Budget lifted the moratorium on school construction, created the School Building Authority (SBA) at the RI Department of Education, created the SBA Capital Fund, and changed the multi-stage Necessity of School Construction application to an annual process. Because of this, the Board will be asked to review and approve projects annually at the end of each fiscal year.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve prioritized Major Projects and Fast Track Repairs. A chart summarizing The Compass School's projects is provided in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$3,850,000 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$1,155,000).

The Compass School:

i. The Compass School	\$ 3,850,000
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SUMMARY: FY 2018 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

THE COMPASS SCHOOL	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	JUSTIFICATION	FY 2018 AID SHARE RATIO*	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	STATE SHARE	STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST**
Renovations and Addition	This project includes the removal and replacement of modular classrooms, as well as high priority repairs and educational program improvements at The Compass School.	More than 40% of The Compass School's student population are currently learning in modular classrooms. This project includes renovations and an addition to an existing historic barn on The Compass School's property. These improvements will include dedicated science lab, a music/art classroom, and other core educational spaces. The project will also address high priority building system repairs.	30%	\$3,850,000 (Bond)	\$1,155,000	\$1,640,100

* State share ratio is based on FY2018 calculation. District may be eligible for additional reimbursement through bonus incentives.

** Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest. The Compass School intends to pay for the project out of bond proceeds.